



September 21, 2011

Mr. Phil Isenberg, Chairman
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Necessary Revisions to Fifth Draft of Delta Plan

Dear Chairman Isenberg:

I am writing to express serious concerns about the draft Delta Plan being reviewed by the Delta Stewardship Council. As a supporter of California's co-equal goals of water supply reliability for the state and ecosystem restoration for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, I am concerned that the various approaches in this draft detract from achieving these goals, although this fifth draft does show improvement over previous drafts.

The draft does not clearly and unambiguously support a key objective of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan – the recovery of water supplies lost due to Delta regulatory restrictions that BDCP intends to dramatically improve. BDCP is further threatened by the draft Delta Plan's proposal to require virtually every significant future BDCP action to undergo an unnecessary review process by the Stewardship Council rather than to review the entire BDCP once to make the final decision that its actions are consistent with the Delta Plan.

It is also extremely troubling that the plan attempts to dictate local water management decisions on everything from rate structures to recycling targets. The California Legislature did not establish the Delta Stewardship Council to micromanage local water management decisions throughout the state. It was established to create a plan that could serve to coordinate the many local, state and federal efforts in the Delta. The Council should redirect its energy on the Delta, improving the reliability of water supplies and the ecological recovery of the estuary.

Feedback by water agencies has echoed these concerns in voluminous comments, including an alternate Delta Plan approach proposed by various agricultural and urban interests throughout the state. The overly regulatory approach that permeates this draft will threaten the success of the Stewardship Council and detract from prospects of a successful, collaborative approach. We simply must get the Delta Plan right for the sake of our water supply, economy and environment.

Sincerely,

Shane Chapman
General Manager

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